

Message Text

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PAGE 01 VIENTI 00995 071031Z

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ACTION EA-01

INFO OCT-01 PA-01 PRS-01 INR-01 ISO-00 INRE-00 SSO-00 /005 W

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O 071000Z FEB 74

FM AMEMBASSY VIENTIANE

TO USINFO WASHDC NIACT IMMEDIATE

INFO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 7591

AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

AMEMBASSY CANBERRA

AMEMBASSY JAKARTA

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI

AMEMBASSY PARIS

UNCLAS VIENTIANE 0995

USIA FOR IPS, IBS, CENTRAL NEWS DESK AND LAO SERVICE, IEA/L,
IOP/G, STATE FOR EA/P, EA/LC, S/PRS, BANGKOK FOR VOA AND
HEDGES, DELHI FOR GILMORE

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: MOPS, PINT, LA

SUBJECT: USINFO

1. U.S. ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF STATE FOR EAST ASIAN
AND PACIFIC AFFAIRS ROBERT S. INGERSOLL VISITED LAOS FEBRUARY 6
AND 7 WHERE HE HELD TALKS WITH PRIME MINISTER SOUVANNA PHOUMA AND
WITH OTHER LAO GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS. HE ALSO CONFERRED WITH
AMERICAN AMBASSADOR CHARLES WHITEHOUSE AND WITH MEMBERS OF
THE AMERICAN EMBASSY.

2. FOLLOWING IS A STATEMENT MADE BY ASSISTANT SECRETARY INGERSOLL
FEBRUARY 7 ON HIS DEPARTURE FROM VIENTIANE FOR RANGOON:

3. "I HAVE UNDERTAKEN THIS TRIP TO EAST ASIAN COUNTRIES IN
ORDER TO BECOME ACQUAINTED WITH THE LEADERS AND PEOPLES IN THE
AREA WHICH COMES WITHIN THE PURVIEW OF MY NEW RESPONSIBILITIES
IN THE DEPARTMENT OF STATE. THIS IS OUR FIRST VISIT TO LAOS, AND
MRS. INGERSOLL AND I WELCOME THE OPPORTUNITY WE HAVE HAD DURING
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OUR BRIEF STAY TO TRAVEL BOTH WITHIN VIENTIANE AND OUTSIDE THE

CITY WHERE WE HAVE BEEN ABLE TO VISIT MANY SITES OF INTEREST AND TO MEET LAO FROM DIFFERENT WALKS OF LIFE. I HAVE ALSO VALUED THE OPPORTUNITY TO MEET WITH PRIME MINISTER SOUVANNA PHOUMA AND TO REVIEW DEVELOPMENTS IN LAOS WITH HIM. AT THE DINNER WHICH THE PRIME MINISTER SO GRACIOUSLY HOSTED FOR US, I WAS ALSO ABLE TO EXCHANGE VIEWS WITH A BROAD SPECTRUM OF OTHER GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS.

4. I AM REMINDED THAT ONE YEAR AGO THIS MONTH THE AGREEMENT ON THE RESTORATION OF PEACE AND RECONCILIATION IN LAOS WAS SIGNED. WE ARE GREATLY ENCOURAGED BY THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE CEASEFIRE WHICH HAS EXISTED SINCE THAT TIME AND BY THE PROGRESS ACHIEVED IN THE POLITICAL NEGOTIATIONS BETWEEN THE TWO SIDES. WE LOOK FORWARD TO THE SUCCESS OF THESE NEGOTIATIONS AND IN THIS CONTEXT SUPPORT PRIME MINISTER SOUVANNA PHOUMA IN HIS CONTINUING EFFORTS TO ACHIEVE A TRUE AND LASTING PEACE AND NATIONAL RECONCILIATION IN LAOS WITHIN THE FRAMEWORK ESTABLISHED BY THE LAOS AGREEMENT.
PATE

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